

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS

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1. A quantization method in which quantization processing is applied to data for first and second recording means which record input image data in a plurality of gradations which belong to each of different gradations in almost the same hue, comprising the steps of:
 - inputting multi-value level image data;
 - performing quantization of the image data input for the first recording means to data with a lower level than that of the input image data (hereinafter referred to as first quantization step); and
 - performing quantization of the image data input for the second recording means to data with a lower level than that of the input image data (hereinafter referred to as second quantization step), wherein at least one of the first and second quantization steps performs quantization of the input image data to multi-value data with 3 or more levels, so that the corresponding one of the first and second recording means may record the image in a plurality of gradations.
2. A recording apparatus which includes first and second recording means which record input image data in a plurality of gradations which belong to each of different gradations in almost the same hue, comprising:
 - input means for inputting multi-value level image data;

5. The recording apparatus according to claim 4,
wherein a size of the ink drop is controlled when the first
and second recording means effect recording in a plurality
of gradations.

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6. The recording apparatus according to claim 2,
wherein not only recording is executed by using both of the
first and second recording means according to a level of the
input image data, but the first and second recording means
10 share a region in which both means effect recording while
both raising recording levels.

5027. A storage medium from which a computer can read out
a control program which is used for performing quantization
15 of data for first and second recording means which record
input image data in a plurality of gradations which belong
to each of different gradations in almost the same hue,
comprising:

a first quantization step module for performing
20 quantization of the image data input for the first recording
means to data with a lower level than that of the input image
data;

a second quantization step module for performing
quantization of the image data input for the second recording
25 means to data with a lower level than that of the input image
data; and

an output step module for outputting results from the first and second quantization steps, wherein one of the first and second quantization step modules perform quantization of the input image data to multi-value data with 3 or more levels so that the corresponding one of the first and second recording means may record the image in a plurality of gradations.

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